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Naval Postgraduate School students: leaders of today and tomorrow

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Naval Postgraduate School Students: Leaders of Today and Tomorrow

“Scientific results cannot be used effectively by soldiers who have no understanding of them, and scientists cannot produce results useful for warfare without an understanding of the operations.”

Dr. Theodore Von Karman, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Group, 1944

NPS’ unique combination of an operationally-experienced student population, combined with an interdisciplinary faculty having a long-term focus on defense-related issues, creates a synergy of innovative thought and research that is brought to bear upon our nation’s most critical defense issues. This distinctive educational environment and NPS’ flexibility, agility and ability to respond to customer needs are what set NPS apart from other civilian universities and even many of our other military educational institutions.

NPS was founded in 1909 for the purpose of education in the scientific, engineering and technical areas that are essential to maintaining the combat effectiveness of the Navy. Today, NPS provides education to meet a full array of defense needs including operations research, management, national security, information technology, and special operations.

A Reflection of Today’s Operating Environment

About 1300 military officers and defense civilians from the United States and over 40 other nations are studying at NPS. This combination of U. S. Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard officers and civilians

Students are fully engaged in professional military education, solving problems, facing challenges and learning with and about each others militaries, operations and cultures. These perspectives benefit every NPS graduate throughout his or her career. Many officers build lifetime friendships that facilitate joint and combined exercises and operations for many years after they leave the school.

NPS is instrumental in creating world leaders who better understand the United States and its military and defense organization. By living in the United States, alongside Americans, international officers also gain a better appreciation of our democratic value system. The educational environment at NPS is a critical part of our national strategy in this regard. We are able to invest the time and effort into broadening and deepening the military-to-military relationships that will prevail in local crises when they emerge.

NPS also has over 300 students in non-resident degree programs around the nation. Most of these students are defense civilians studying in Product Development, Contract and Program Management, Software Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Systems Engineering. NPS offers short courses, both in-residence and through Mobile Education Teams. In 2002, NPS faculty visited over 50 countries including Indonesia, Bolivia, Ukraine, and Paraguay, providing education in resource management, civil-military relations, and defense planning.

International Leaders

Many graduates of NPS have attained the rank of flag or general officers in the Navy, Marine Corps and other U.S. services. Currently, 20 percent of Navy flag officers are graduates.

Since 1954, at least 222 NPS graduates have gone on to achieve flag or general officer rank in other countries.

34 Astronauts have graduated from NPS and about 1 out of every 3 space missions has an NPS alumnus aboard.

An example of the impact that NPS makes on other countries is that the Minister of Defense of Latvia, a DRMI '95 graduate, said that Latvia was a viable candidate to join NATO largely due to what he learned here. The Minister of Defense of Columbia also recognized NPS for the positive impact we have made on reducing the drug cartels in that country.